

THE DECLARATION

Of the Right Honourable

HENRY

EARLE OF

CUMBERLAND

Lord Lieutenant General of His

MAJESTIES Forces in *Yorkshire*.

And of the Nobility, Gentry, and others

His Majesties Subjects now assembled at *York* for

His Majesties Service and the Defence of

This City and County.



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By speciall command.

THE
DECLARATION
Of the Right Honourable, *Henry*
Earle of Cumberland, &c.

From the deep sense of the growing miseries which have
grievous apprehension of those inevitable ruines, and deso-
lations; with a real War fomented, hatched, and brought forth
by our continuall distractions, must infallibly bring upon us. We
country to endeavour all means possible to discharge our selves
before God and Man, and to leave nothing unattempted which
might avert and prevent those fearfull calamities which as it
must be consequently the most bloody and ruineous) war
of all others; and therefore in pursuance of that due affection to
our Native Country; We first prevailed with our most gracious
Sovereigne, whose Royal Inclination met our humble desires
in the most ready wayes, and a pparent meanes which we could
devise and finde our for the peace and safety thereof, and se-
afide all other respects, though never so much conducing to the
main of His owne affaires, for our security; and therefore carried
a way the fatall Cloud of War, which in a hideous form hung
over our heads, to disburden it selfe in another Clymate, so as
the duties of prayse and thankfulnessse to our God and King,
whose grace and goodnesse had freed us from the visible conse-
quences of a great and terrible tempest; but since it hath pleased
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the unsearchable Wisdome of Almighty God to disorder it, That another storme hath broken and powdered a great part of it upon this Country (when we least feared, and by those means which we least suspected) and that contrary to all expectation work our misery (there appeared those out of our owne Bowels, which have begun a War and kindled a flame, which doth hazard the ruine and destruction of their Native Country; which we take as a Punishment due to our manifold sins and offences, and leave the particuler executioners thereof, to His owne wisdom and Justice hereafter. yet we have not been wanting to the safety and protection of this People (so long, and in so many wayes afflicted, but have appolyed our selves to all such wayes and means, which in Humane reason we could hope might procure a timely remedy to those bleeding wounds. And therefore in a Treaty at *Rodwell*, with some Gentlemen of this County, of whose affection to peace and Vaity (though differing in Opinion from us) we were most confident: Sundry Articles were agreed and Concluded upon, all wholly tending to those ends, and conducing to reall settlement, which was sought after by us with so much candor plaine dealing, and earnestnesse, that we willingly let passe the manifest advantages which we then had over the opposers of the settled Peace of this County, and judging the affections of others by our own desires and inclinations, declined and quitted all other considerations, but such as might purchase a good correspondence and amity with those Gentlemen and others, whom at that time it lay in our Power to have forced or destroyed; and that nothing might be wanting to oblige them, sett at Liberty sundry Prisoners, some of good quality, upon their word and Faith, to returne them againe if the Treaty were not preformed; and condescended to all the World knows That we ayimed at the Publique safety & assurance: Yet not withstanding all this, without the least breach on our behalfe, particuler passions and interests hath so far prevailed, That as, Toone as they were freed of the danger wherein they were then engaged, contrary to their *Hands, Faith and professions*, they have wholly broken that Agreement so solemnly concluded, & without rendring the least reason (which indeed is impossible and of which they can never excuse themselves) have with

indirect intentions; and by a specious offer of Peace (which it seems was the least of their thoughts) strengthened, and prepraed themselves for War, by pretence of safety to the Countie, disveloped themselves from danger, and procured security to their own persons, and by a seeming desire to stop the deluge of War (began by them alone) opened a breach to all the miseries & calamities which must now most invitable overwhelm this distressed Countie; whereby before the utmost extremity hath appeared, we have already suffered what can befall any people (setting aside, firing Townes and Villages) by the Hand of a cruell and Forraigne enemy, Strangers brought in to oppress us, our houses plundred, goods destroyed and taken away, our households dispersed, Wives and children banished, the persons of divers of us seized and Imprisoned, our lives endangered, and sought after, by Sword or Famine; (and what is beyond all helpe) those who are unquestionably innocent, and in no capacity to be involved in our pretended offences (if we be guilty of any) our Children (even those whose Infant yeares admit no colour of objection) our Servants (employed only in domestick commands) sought after, and endangered in the same measure and degree of cruelty, violence, and oppression. And that no aggravation may be wanting to increase our sufferings, all those exorbitances executed under the glorious pretences of safety of Religion and preservation of State; and done by Authority and command of Parliament (which we acknowledge and beleive to be the Guard an of Publique liberty) and who we are confident being chosen by us for assertors of our Freedoms, will not enslave us, being trusted with the property of our goods, will not take them from us; being selected for the preservation of our Laws, will not violate or infringe them; and that in so high a measure, as more could not be perpetrated, if we were conquered and subdued by the most barbarous and violent Enemy. We have heard and do beleive, That both the Houses have commanded the *Militia* to be settled & that they think it necessary, for some reasons (best knowne to themselves) that the power which untill this time, hath bin unquestionably in the Kings of this land, should now be settled in themselves yet these admitted, we cannot be perswaded, That it is the intention or meaning of the Parliament, that all who are not convin-

vinced of the necessity, or who cannot dispence with their Oathes, which tyes them to the knowne Lawes of the Land till they be repealed, and to obey His Maiesties command in those things wherein it appears Hee hath manifest Right, untill He hath given a way and parted with that Right by His own assent, or who are yet Newters, and conscionably, expect a legall Rule whereby to be directed, should presently with out due processe of Law, be deuested from all property of Goods, Liberty of persons, Lives and Fortunes, and be in a worse condition for not performing what is it no Law, then any Man can be for offending and disobeying all the Lawes which were ever yet established: and much lesse, that the friends and servants, the faulty and guiltlesse, those whose condition or inability free them from assisting in, or exercising any *Militia*, Clergy-men, Babes, Old Men, women, should be included and wrapped up in one common fate and destruction, contrary to the rules of God and nature, which make a large differene between the innocent, and the offender, and the customs and Laws of this Realme, which give freedome to diverse in those cases and have so long maintained this Kingdom in peace, by distributing rewards and punishments (not to all a like) but to the conscionably obedient, or wilfull contemners thereof. These destructive courses of violence, pretending necessity, were ever opposed when they were executed by Regall power, deferred & protested against by his Sacred *Maiesty*, altogether condemned by former, and this present Parliament, and not to be done or consented to by any, without disobedience to His *Majesty*, offence to the Parliament, and injury to the Freedom and Liberty if this people and Kingdom. But wee are farre from believing these to be the command and Acts of an English Parliament, which our selves have so earnestly desired, so faithfully supported; but rather of some persons, who (being now) contrary to their hopes, armed with power to gaine the affections of their Souldiers for farther ends and designs, and to make their particular profit by the generall spoyle, give way to this licentiousnesse, and suffer them to ransom persons and destroy the goods of the innocent people, and to make havocke and spoile of all which comes in their way, letting loose the Raines of government, and giving way to all manner of rapine (though the gaine on the r side doth in no measure

countervail the losse on the other) to the unspeakeable detriment and dammage of this our flourishing, now miserable Country. By which courses it hath beene already endamaged (as we offer to make good) to the value of 100000 pound, besides the sufferance of many such barbarous outrages, scarce credible to be committed by Christians; and those so frequent, that if possible, they can bee denyed; and that the Houses will admit the prooffe, we shall make them appeare in such numbers, and so abhorminable, will exceed the beliefe of any, unlesse they see them sufficiently witnessed and attested. Out of our desire of peace, we have already endured beyond mortall sufferance, and are ready to suffer still in our owne particulars; and to set a part all Interests of our owne, and to expose our selves to the height of violence and rigour though undeserved (unlesse to obey our King according to His Laws be an offence) before wee will hazard the peace of this County, and this people, for any regard or respect whatsoever. And therefore because as our Adversaries do speciously pretend, That their Armes are raised only for seizing upon Delinquents, and bringing them to condigne punishments, or driving them out of the Country (which is their baire to catch the multitude.) We do unanimously professe and declare (although we are confident, and that their practises shew that whosoever hath mony or Plate, or Moweables, is a Delinquent, and must part with them ere he be guiltles.) to take away all scruples, if they will set down and expresse the names of the delinquents (if any be amongst us) and their offences, upon assurance that no other end is sought by their Armes; and that once obtained, they wil absolutely lay them down, and free the country: if shall be manifested, That we will not decline any just and legall tryall, or desire that a war should be continued, or the people disturb'd for the safeguard of them, or any of them: although we are most assured, that when by the tearme of Delinquency, they have quit their hands of such, who are most likely to oppose the ruinous proceedings, that others whose wealth, estates, or former actions displeasing to these men, have made them obnoxious, shall succeed in the same misery; and very many, who suppose themselves in a good condition of grace and favour with them, shall fall into the like misfortune, as soone as the Lion sees fit

fit time to discover his hidden Claws; it being impossible they should be in a better estate of Innocency, then our selves, who have not at all wilfully offended, or opposed any of the knowne Lawes of this Kingdom. We have had wofull and sad experience, that the more our Adversaries are sought unto for peace, the farther they are estranged from it; and that all lenitive applications, doe but exasperate our disease. We doe protest before God and man, That wee will yet apply our selves to all meanes which may conduce to quiet, and settlement; but in the meane time will really and effectually labour for the safety of this Country, our selves, our wives, and children; and if for the preservation of all, that ought to be defended, and maintained by Mortall Man: we are necessitated and compelled by their example to call in Forces, and desire the Assistance of the Earle of Newcastle, and of our friends and Neighbours in the adjacent Countie (being of our own nation, and whose turne is next, and cause the same with ours, and that thereby some unforeseene or unwilling accident arise, not then to be remedied, and that Yorkshire become an Akeldama and field of bloud, we lay the consequences and effects thereof at the doores, and upon the heads of those men who first began, and kindled the flame in this Country, and have hitherto refused our most brotherly and peaceable offers, and endeavouring for unity and tranquillity, which on our parts hath bin so earnestly sought after, and attempted; that we can justly now say, we have freed our owne soules, discharged the duty of Christians, Englishmen, Patriotes, and have bin refused in all: so as there remains no more, but to defend our Country from Strangers, our lives from violence, our Wives and children from extremity of injury, our Houses from Rapine, our goods from spoyle, our Laws, liberties, property, and what soever is or can bee more or dearer unto us, from unjust hazard and destruction. In execution of which resolution, there is no course or means omitted, which may (as far as is possible) conduce to the benefit and preservation of the people. The Earle of Newcastle required assurance before he would march to our assistance, that the Country should be payed the billet of his Souldiers, which was before thought upon, and resolved by us, and caution is accordingly given; so that no man will receive losse

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or damage by those forces; as far as it is in our power to provide or foresee. And because they have hitherto built up themselves upon false reports and foundations, and disguise and make the truth according as it may best fit their ends, and serve their purposes; and thereby not onely perswade the people with deceitfull rumours of his Majesties unfortunate proceedings (when in truth God hath wonderfully blessed him with most fortunate successe) but also casting false lights before their eyes, lay scandalous aspersions upon our actions and reall intendments, for the benefit of this County, striving to possesse them with a prejudicacy of what soever we go about to do; & accordingly are now seeking to poyson the minds of the people with a false opinion, and causelesse jealousy, That the Army now coming to our assistance, is assigned for the oppression, not deliverance; the destruction, not safegard of the Country; and will be the ruine of it wheresoever they passe. To stop the poysonous mouthes of malice it selfe, the Earle of New-Castle hath declared his honourable Intentions, to leave the Country in peace, as soone as he hath delivered it from these enemies of His Majesty, who now oppress and tyrannise over it. In which endeavour wee doubt not, to find the reall concurrence of all who have interest in this County, and that they will not be behind their Neighbours and Allyes in seeking their owne preservations, being all owners of one common cause, and must (what ever pretences be made) in the end, runne the same course of violence and disolation. How ever, though we perish in this work, we shall rest satisfied, that we have preserved our Faith and Honour untainted; and if all other desert us in this resolution, wee will not faile our selves, nor our duty to our King and Country, wherein appears so much Justice and Piety: but are most confident by Gods blessing upon the performance of our just endeavours, to repress the enemies of His Majesties peace, and to conserve our selves and this Country, to the Glory of God, the service of our King, and mutuall comfort of one another.

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